

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ABF-01

FEA-01 ACDA-05 IO-10 EB-07 NRC-05 OES-03 ERDA-05 /096 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:SHUMPHREY:JLR

APPROVED BY EUR:JAARMITAGE

EUR/SOV:POLANSKY

L:BETTAUER

OES/WET/IM. D. HOYLE

C:KELLY

A/BF/OAGAD. QUAID

S/S:MR. ORTIZ

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R 171627Z SEP 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TPHY, TECH, ENRG, PGOV, US, UR

SUBJECT: GAO REQUEST TO SOVIET EMBASSY FOR INFORMATION ON
LIQUID METAL FAST BREEDER REACTOR PROGRAMS AND TO US
EMBASSY MOSCOW FOR ASSISTANCE

REF: A) MOSCOW 12582; B) STATE 166868

1. GAO, AT BEHEST OF JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS,
IS MAKING STUDY OF STATUS OF FOREIGN LIQUID METAL FAST
BREEDER REACTOR (LMFBR) PROGRAMS AND FEASIBILITY OF COOPERA-
TIVE DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY SHARING AND PURCHASING. GAO
DIRECTED LETTERS HERE ON AUGUST 4 TO EMBASSIES OF MAJOR
COUNTRIES (FRG, FRANCE, JAPAN, UNITED KINGDOM, AND USSR)
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DEVELOPING LIQUID METAL FAST BREEDER REACTORS, ASKING FOR

INFORMATION ON THEIR NUCLEAR AND LMFBR PROGRAMS AND FOR REACTION TO A VISIT TO THEIR COUNTRIES BY GAO STAFF IN CONNECTION WITH STUDY AT LATER DATE (IN SOVIET CASE, OCTOBER WAS MENTIONED).

2. ARMITAGE AND EDGAR MET WITH VASEV AND LOZENKO AT LATTER'S REQUEST ON AUGUST 28 TO DISCUSS THIS GAO INFORMATION QUERY. VASEV STATED THIS WAS FIRST TIME GAO HAD APPROACHED SOVIET EMBASSY AND IT WANTED TO CONSULT DEPARTMENT BEFORE DECIDING WHETHER AND HOW TO REPLY.

3. DEPARTMENT HAS DETERMINED THAT DIRECT APPROACHES TO EMBASSIES BY GAO ON SUCH MATTERS ARE NOT APPROPRIATE AND THAT GAO SHOULD CHANNEL ALL REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION ON LMFBR THROUGH DEPARTMENT. DEPARTMENT HAS ADVISED SOVIET EMBASSY THAT GAO REQUEST INVOLVED SERIOUS INQUIRY AND THAT SOVIET AUTHORITIES WOULD PRESUMABLY WISH TO TREAT IT APPROPRIATELY. WE SUGGESTED THAT, IF SOVIETS DO WISH TO RESPOND EITHER TO THE REQUEST FOR INFORMATION OR TO GAO PROPOSAL THAT GAO STAFF MEMBERS VISIT THE USSR, IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO DIRECT RESPONSE TO GAO THROUGH EUR/SOV.

4. DEPARTMENT HAS ALSO ASKED GAO NOT TO CONTACT US EMBASSIES DIRECTLY (REF A) ON MATTER OF THEIR RENDERING ASSISTANCE TO GAO TEAMS INVESTIGATING LMFBR ON THE SPOT, BUT RATHER TO CHANNEL SUCH REQUESTS THROUGH DEPARTMENT. UNTIL SUCH TIME AS SOVIETS HAVE DECIDED WHETHER TO COMPLY WITH GAO REQUEST FOR INFORMATION OR WHETHER TO RECEIVE GAO TEAM IN USSR, DEPARTMENT REQUESTS THAT EMBASSY TAKE NO ACTION ON THIS MATTER. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NUCLEAR RESEARCH, MEETINGS, NUCLEAR REACTORS, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE221328
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: SHUMPHREY:JLR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750323-0910
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750943/aaaabljt.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 MOSCOW 12582, 75 STATE 166868
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 JUN 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <24 OCT 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GAO REQUEST TO SOVIET EMBASSY FOR INFORMATION ON LIQUID METAL FAST BREEDER REACTOR PROGRAMS AND TO US
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Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006